

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 869 without my signature.

In home health education and outreach programs for low income first-time expectant mothers and their families have been shown to improve the health and development of young children. There are many approaches to home visiting programs, both in terms of duration and the types of professionals providing the service. While I support services to help improve the healthy development of young children, I also believe that a single model may not be the best approach in the diverse communities around this state, both in terms of the appropriateness for the individuals to be served as well as the cost of providing these types of services. Currently some communities have adopted the approach outlined in this legislation, while others are providing similar services through other strategies.

Because of the unique needs of our diverse communities, I would encourage the author to work with First 5 California and the local First 5 Commissions since many of these organizations already fund similar programs. Together they may identify other sources of stable funding that would help facilitate the discussion regarding the possible creation of such programs around the state.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger